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Bangalore Mirror

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HACKING HORROR

As govt platforms face cyberattacks, experts say security measures such as 2-factor authentication no longer enough

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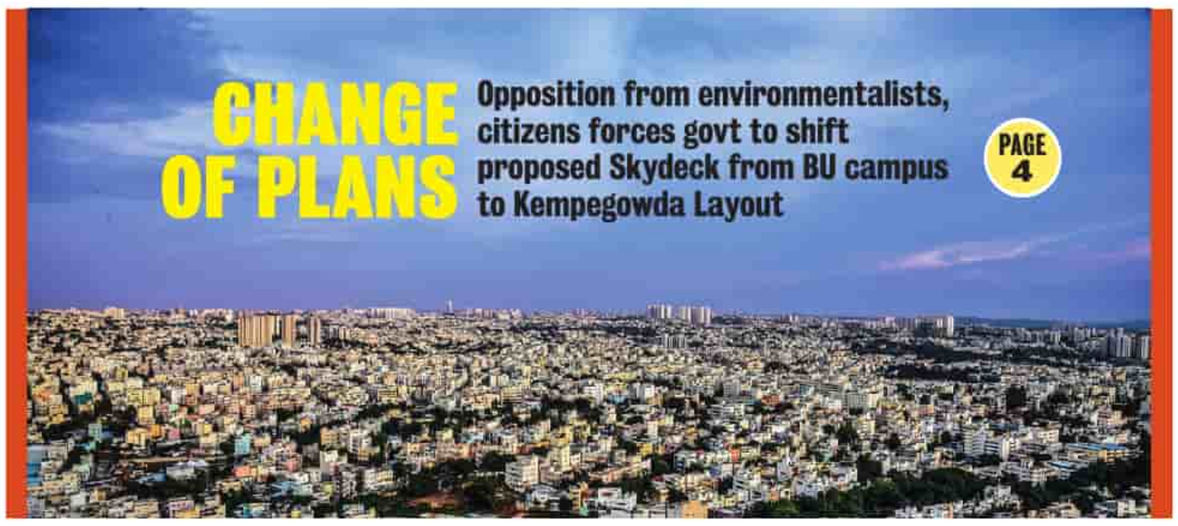

CHANGE OF PLANS

Opposition from environmentalists, citizens forces govt to shift proposed Skydeck from BU campus to Kempegowda Layout

PAGE 4

Crores of rupees spent for restoration work by at least two different agencies, efforts of volunteers and citizens — all go in vain as dirty water has been let in once again into Benniganahalli Lake

FILTH FLOW

Activists accuse BBMP's SWD dept of carelessness, but officials say it is just 'rain water'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"The pollution of the lake will affect students practising kayaking. It will not only make it difficult for the students to practise but will also become a health hazard

—Anupama VL, Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust

Benniganahalli Lake has seen several rounds of restoration. Seven years ago, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent approximately Rs 3 crore to revive the lake. Then Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) put in Rs 2.50 crore to develop the lake, making walking paths and other basic amenities at the premises. All this has come to nought as residents of Pai Layout and environmentalists helplessly watch sewage inflow into the lake .

Environmentalists said that they were shocked to see the water body being polluted due to the negligence of the authorities concerned. They accused the BBMP Storm Water Drains (SWD) department of letting dirty water into the lake.

Expressing concern over the pollution, NH Subramanian, Secretary of Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust told BM that all the efforts of community members and environmentalists got wasted. "It took five years for our team to ensure the water body regains its lost glory. I am shocked to see the condition of the lake. I do not know how to address this problem," said Subramanian.

The residents and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

21 days later...

Traffic police all set to seize, scrap vehicles that have been lying parked and unused by the roads, parks, houses, vacant plots for more than 21 days

| Atiya Firdos
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Traffic Police is set to take up the towing of long-parked and abandoned vehicles as a priority task under a renewed 21-day joint operation with BBMP officials. The focus will be on main roads, park-side areas, government lands, and vacant plots where unused vehicles have remained idle for weeks, blocking access and posing potential safety threats.

As per senior traffic police officials, the move comes amid a rise in public complaints about abandoned vehicles being parked in front of house gates, disrupting transport flow, and even being linked to criminal activities. "We are receiving a lot of complaints where residents say their streets are turning into dumping zones. Several of these vehicles haven't moved in weeks or months," a senior officer said.

The police have been instructed to create a dedicated dumping yard on a 100-acre plot to hold such vehicles. As per the directive, any vehicle left unattended on public roads for more than 21 days will be considered abandoned and may be auctioned after due process.

The 21-day programme, based on a standard operation procedure (SOP)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Culinary delight

The Ritz-Carlton is organising 'The Chaat Festival', a celebration of India's beloved street delicacies, elevated through the artistry of their chefs. **Where: The Market, The Ritz-Carlton; When: May 10 to June 10**

02 Potter pop-up

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: May 1 to June 3**

03 Play time

Ranga Shankara is organising 'Tila', a puppet play for children above 6 years of age, about Tila, a trickster who always believes he is cleverer than others. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 8 , 3.30 pm and 6 pm**

04 Musical trance

Rekha Bharadwaj will be transporting the audience to a musical bliss with her distinctive voice at 'Humari Atariya Pe', a bollywood concert. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: June 1, 7 pm**

05 Stage saga

Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre is presenting 'Orange Candy', a play by Ronak Sharma, that explores how childhood's forgotten wisdom can unexpectedly guide us back to ourselves. **Where: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre, JP Nagar; When: June 1, 7 pm**

Volunteers step up to locate tree hazards

With a focus on identifying threats which could lead to breakage of trees, residents of area pinpoint trees which require attention and endanger passersby

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In response to widespread tree damage across the city, a group of volunteers organised a drive on Saturday to identify trees at risk of falling in Domlur. The initiative comes after a massive tree collapsed in the area last week due to heavy rains, where fortunately no injuries were reported.

Fifteen residents of Domlur, led by DT Devare, Trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, who is also a tree activist, joined the drive. The drive began with Devare briefing the members on specific points. The drive focused on identifying threats to trees, including cemented bases, improper cutting leading to imbalance, slanted trunks, termite or wood borer infestations, and even nails that weaken trunks and branches. Volunteers specifically searched for dead branches at risk of falling and identified a few that required urgent attention.

"We found some of the trees with no percolation pits. Concrete was put up around the trees. We have created awareness amongst the residents on the need of leaving space around the trees for percolation of rainwater," said Devare, noting that recently, Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar Khandre had issued a circular advising local bodies to ensure that there is no concrete around trees. "I hope the BBMP Forest Department will ensure no concrete around trees in Bengaluru. I want similar drives to be taken up at all localities in Bengaluru," said Devare.

Inset: Volunteer group led by DT Devare, organised the drive to do a pre-emptive check on trees in the locality

Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, recalled that a dead branch of a tree fell on her husband's car while he was driving last week. "He was lucky it was small, but we hear of regular incidents where people are not so lucky and cars get smashed and people lose their lives too. Why wait for tragedy to strike - so we, Domlur residents, said let's do a pre-emptive check of layout trees to preserve not just our trees but save our residents from untoward accidents," she said. A resident pleading anonymity said that they love trees but some people want to get rid of them. "So they endanger them by purposely cementing them up so they fall," said the resident.

Dr Hemant Kumar Agrawal, a long time resident of the area, highlighted that he has planted many trees in the locality, and makes an effort to personally maintain them. He pointed to the base of a gulmohar tree around which he has created a boundary to ensure safety of the tree. "About 13 years ago, this tree got infected by termites and I had to use anti-termite spray," he said, noting that the tree is thriving currently. "We just make sure there is no cement near the base of the trunk, and ensure good compost. In the dry months we water using rain water collected," he said.

Jan Aushadhi shelves refilled

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras across Karnataka are now fully stocked with essential medicines. This comes in the wake of growing complaints about severe shortages at these subsidised outlets, which were set up by the central government to provide affordable medicines to the masses. Until recently, as many as 1,412 Jan Aushadhi stores in the state were grappling with shortages. Supplies had not been matching demand, with many key medicines either unavailable or out of stock due to incomplete inventories and delayed restocking.

Responding to the situation highlighted in the Bangalore Mirror report, authorities acted swiftly. By May 21, a full supply of essential medicines was dispatched to all Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Karnataka. The restocked medicines include those critical for diabetes, hypertension, cardiac issues, tuberculosis, fever, asthma, gastric problems, and even cancer treatment. With the shelves replenished, the demand for these drugs has seen a significant uptick. "Public response has been positive. People are back to purchasing these affordable medicines," said Mahesh Natikar, an official managing one of the Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The restoration of full medical supply ensures that citizens can once again access vital treatment without financial strain, fulfilling the original mission of the Jan Aushadhi initiative.

— BMB

BangaloreMirror
Jan Aushadhi centres in Karnataka hit by drug shortages

BM reported how medicine shortages have made Jan Aushadhi Kendras unable to provide essential drugs

Rising cases of chikungunya trigger worry

With 2,954 confirmed cases, Karnataka stands amongst most severely affected states in 2024, as per NVBDCP report

The steady annual rise in chikungunya and dengue cases in Karnataka has sparked fresh concern amongst the public and health authorities alike. According to a recent report by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), as many as 8,892 suspected cases and 238 confirmed cases of chikungunya were reported in the state in March 2025.

The figures highlight a worrying trend, as Karnataka had already registered 2,954 confirmed chikungunya cases in 2024.

Nationally, the 2024 NVBDCP report reveals that Madhya Pradesh topped the chart with 78,217 suspected cases of chikungunya, while Maharashtra recorded the highest number of confirmed cases at 5,854. Karnataka's tally of 2,954 confirmed cases placed it amongst the more severely affected states, underlining the regional spread of the disease. Chikungunya, transmitted primarily through the bites of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, presents symptoms such as joint swelling, muscle pain, headaches, nausea, fatigue, and rashes. It is classified as an arbovirus and, in rare cases, may lead to fatal complications. Since 2006, the disease has been reported across most Indian cities, with nearly all states affected. The data over the past seven years paints a clear picture of fluctuating yet persistent outbreaks.

Chikungunya, transmitted primarily through the bites of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, presents symptoms such as joint swelling, muscle pain, headaches, nausea, fatigue, and rashes

Enough Covid testing kits available

As the Health Department prepares to increase Covid testing, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare has confirmed the availability of adequate COVID-19 testing kits across the state. Although the current number of COVID-19 cases remains low, the state has activated testing at centres equipped with Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) facilities. In Bengaluru, testing is being carried out at key institutions such as National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore Medical College, and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), with preparations underway at a total of 10 centres across Karnataka. To ensure uninterrupted testing capacity, authorities have instructed the procurement of 5,000 RT-PCR kits, which are expected to suffice for a month. As per the latest update, Karnataka currently has 2,500 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits, 1,30,000 RNA extraction kits, 2,00,000 Viral Transport Medium (VTM) kits, and is currently in the process of procuring 5,000 RT-PCR kits. — BMB

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Love for Kannada language

Andhra Pradesh's Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, who's got quite the fan following even in Bengaluru, left everyone pleasantly surprised when he kicked off his speech with a few lines of the Kannada Naada Geethe! Yep, the big man showed off his Kannada skills during a recent event where he came to receive six kumki elephants from Karnataka. Later, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah took the stage and reminded everyone why this elephant handover matters — Karnataka leads the nation with a whopping 3,695 elephants! Siddu stressed that teaming up with neighbouring states is the way to stop human-elephant clashes, saving lives and crops alike.

Aesthetic touch

MA Saleem, the new DG and IGP, spilled the beans on his working style with his predecessor Alok Mohan. Turns out, Mohan barely dropped by the CID HQ in the last two years, just once! But when he did, he threw a curveball: "Give CID a fresh new look, with some budget, of course." Saleem took that challenge seriously. "Check out the chief's office or the mess, notice the vibe? Totally revamped!" It wasn't just about looks; it was about adding that personal flair. Most senior officers tend to skim the surface, but Mohan? Nah, he wanted to dive deep and make a real difference.

Tractors to rescue

Bengaluru's rains may have brought the city to a standstill, but they also brought out some unexpected heroes, tractors and excavators. In the flood-hit zones, it wasn't fancy SUVs or official cars ruling the streets, but humble tractors splashing through waterlogged roads like seasoned pros. KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj turned heads as he rode through submerged streets atop an excavator. Not to be outdone, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao and Administrator Tushar Giri Nath ditched their office chairs for tractor seats, wading into the chaos on farm equipment turned rescue rides. Netizens, with their signature sarcasm, had a field day. "BBMP should consider leasing tractors permanently, they're clearly more useful during the monsoons than half the road infrastructure!" quipped one user. Another added, "Why invest in SUVs when an excavator gets the job done and clears debris?" With Bengaluru's flood scenes turning into unintentional tractor parades, perhaps it's time for the civic body to update its official fleet — fewer sedans, more soil-shifters!

No monthly Gruhalakshmi

Dy CM Shivakumar took everyone by surprise when he said, "We never said the Gruhalakshmi scheme money would come in every single month like clockwork. We said we'll pay, that's it. There might be some delays, no big deal!" However, CM Siddaramaiah, before the elections, had claimed that the money would be paid every month. When DKS was asked by journalists as to why he wasn't touring Hospet, Shivakumar said, "We didn't come here for showbiz or sightseeing. We're here for the people's work. I came prepared with clothes and shoes for this event, but with Bengaluru's rains causing trouble, I'm heading back early. I'll join the CM to inspect the flood-affected areas soon."

Bridal entry at exam

Dress code dramas have been the talk of the town at test centres lately, but last week, Hassan witnessed a showstopper! A girl strutted into her BCom final exam dressed as a bride. Yep, you read that right! Turns out, her big exam fell right on her wedding day. After nailing the wedding rituals, she didn't stop — she zoomed straight to the exam hall, cracked the test, and then bounced back to the wedding reception to keep the celebrations rolling. Talk about multitasking like a pro! Who says you can't ace exams and weddings on the same day?

— Sridhar Vivan

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UPS benefits for the subscribers retired under NPS on or before 31/03/2025 or their legally wedded spouse

1. Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) introduced by Central Govt, effective from 1st April 2025, are available to past retirees also (*those subscribers who retired on or before 31/03/2025 and had completed a minimum 10 years of qualifying service in Central Govt.*) and for their legally wedded spouse.
2. The following additional UPS benefits are available to such retired employees/ spouse under NPS, and they need not to necessarily surrender the benefits availed under NPS including annuity.

(a) **Lumpsum payment***(one time)* one-tenth of last drawn basic pay and dearness allowance thereon, for each completed six months of qualifying service.

(b) **Monthly Top-up amounts:** This amount is calculated based on admissible UPS payout+Dearness relief (DR) minus representative annuity amount under NPS.

(c) **Simple interest** as per applicable PPF rates **on arrears** with respect to above benefits for the past period.

Note: *The Illustrative examples for UPS benefits to Retirees on or before 31.03.2025 are given under Schedule VII of PFRDA (Operationalization of UPS under NPS) Regulations), 2025* (available on https://www.pfrda.org.in//MyAuth/Admin/ showimg.cshtml?ID=3484)

How to claim the UPS benefits:

Physical mode- The claimant shall be required to submit the filled in applicable Form *(B2- for subscriber & B4/B6 – for the legally wedded spouse)* to the concerned DDO from where the subscriber has retired. These forms can be downloaded from www.npscra.nsdl.co.in/ups.php

Online mode-The claimants need to visit www.npscra.nsdl.co.in/ups.php and fill the online form and submit the same through online mode to DDO for their processing.

Last date to claim the benefits: 30th June 2025.

PFRDA is conducting regular webinar on UPS, details are available at https://www.pfrda.org.in/index1.cshtml?lsid=546

Date:26.05.2025

Skydeck project moves to Kempegowda Layout

After facing environmental objections State Government shifts proposed ₹500-crore Skydeck project to BDA site; while officials say it will boost tourism, critics argue funds should be used to fix core civic issues

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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The The State Government has shifted its focus to constructing the Skydeck in Kempegowda Layout after facing strong opposition from environmentalists against building it within the Bangalore University campus.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "We had initially decided to build the Skydeck in Hemmigepura. However, since regulations require the site to be at least 20 km from the airport, we faced challenges at that location. Therefore, it has now been decided to construct the Skydeck in the BDA area of Kempegowda Layout."

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been on a long quest to find a suitable location for the project. Initially, sites like the Mysore Sandal Soap Factory, NGEF, Racecourse, Majestic, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation in Whitefield, GKVK, Hemmigepura, and NICE Road were all considered. The latest proposal targeted Jnana Bharathi, the expansive campus of Bangalore University. However, each location encountered challenges ranging from aviation regulations and environmental objections to public resistance, leaving the BBMP still searching for an ideal spot. A few months back, BBMP formally requested Bangalore University to suggest a 200-300-acre land parcel for the project.

Skydeck is part of BBMP's plan to boost tourism and investments

> **"We had initially decided to build the Skydeck in Hemmigepura. However, since regulations require the site to be at least 20 km from the airport, we faced challenges at that location**
>
> – DK Shivakumar, DyCM

Project to drive tourism and investments

The Skydeck is part of BBMP's broader vision to enhance tourism and attract investments across multiple sectors. Originally estimated to cost ₹250 crore, the budget for the project has now doubled to ₹500 crore. The initiative gained significant traction after Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, inspired by a visit to New York last year, envisioned a similar landmark for Bengaluru.

Opposition to project

Many citizens and experts have voiced strong opposition to the Skydeck project, arguing that the government should prioritise addressing Bengaluru's pressing infrastructure issues instead. Critics suggest that rather than investing hundreds of crores in a tourism-centric initiative, the focus should be on fixing the city's crumbling roads, traffic congestion, drainage problems, and public transport system. They believe improving core civic infrastructure would have a far greater impact on the daily lives of residents than a luxury viewing platform.

Tax official falls victim to fake defence email

Amid rising cases of cyberattacks on government platforms, experts say current security measures are no longer enough and call for AI-based protection systems

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Central Tax Inspector in Bengaluru South fell victim to a cyberattack, highlighting vulnerabilities in government email systems.

The official's government email was compromised on May 20 after receiving a deceptive message through the e-office portal. The email, titled "Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 May Following Recent Incidents", appeared to come from a Defence Estate Office address. Upon attempting to open the attached document, the official was prompted to enter their credentials in a suspicious pop-up window. Although the ID was entered correctly, the file did not open.

By the next day, the email account had been hacked. Access was restored only after emergency measures, including a password reset, reinstallation of the Kavach two-factor authentication app, and support from the NIC email nodal officer.

A follow-up scan of the compromised account revealed a suspicious email in the trash folder. It had been sent to multiple defence-related government addresses, urging users to "Migrate Your NIC Account to mgovcloud.in", a potential phishing attempt.

Authorities have not confirmed what communications may have been sent during the period the account was compromised. However, the breach has raised serious concerns over the possibility of identity theft, phishing attacks, or even espionage attempts targeting sensitive government departments. A case has been registered under the CEN police station (East division), and further investigations are underway.

> **We must embrace AI-enabled threat detection and periodic audits**
>
> –Adv Mirza FA, expert

Not an isolated case

Recently, a fake website mimicking the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) tricked students into sharing personal details. Earlier, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's website was hacked and replaced with a spoof version, four people were arrested. In another case, fraudsters posed as R&AW officials to scam job seekers. These incidents underline a troubling trend, which is how government websites and official IDs are increasingly vulnerable, raising urgent questions about the state of digital security in the public sector.

Experts advocate measures

This incident adds to a growing list of cyber intrusions, proving that even official government domains are no longer secure. The ability of attackers to breach a.gov.in address and impersonate defence-linked authorities highlights not just a case of digital identity theft, but a potential threat to national security.

The sending of misleading emails during the compromised period has triggered fears of phishing or espionage attempts aimed at other officials. Experts stress the need for government digital systems to evolve beyond standard two-factor authentication, calling for the integration of AI-powered threat detection, real-time forensic monitoring, and regular cybersecurity audits.

"This is no longer just about identity theft, when attackers can spoof gov. in domains and target defence-related channels, it borders on a national security issue," said Advocate Mirza Faizan Assad, a cyber law expert. "Our digital infrastructure must move beyond basic two-factor authentication and embrace AI-enabled threat detection, real-time forensic tracking, and periodic audits," he said, adding that the implications of inaction can go far beyond reputational damage.

Rave party busted, 31 held

Devanahalli police raided a rave party at a farmhouse near Kannamangala late Saturday night, detaining 31 people who were allegedly under the influence of drugs.

Despite heavy rain, the party continued late into the night with loud DJ music. Alerted by locals who noticed several attendees behaving suspiciously, possibly under the influence of drugs, the police conducted a raid at the venue.

Of the 31 detained, 24 were men and 7 women, many of them said to be software professionals from other states. Cocaine, ganja and opium were seized from the spot.

All those caught were subjected to FSL dope tests, and the results were received. Some people managed to flee the spot when the police arrived.

The farmhouse belongs to the one identified as Syed Aseed, who is yet to be traced. Meanwhile, the caretaker has been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway to identify the organisers and suppliers behind the party. Liquor bottles and drug paraphernalia were also found scattered across the venue. A case has been registered.

Apology for customer harm

Delivery company Zepto has apologised to its customer in connection with the alleged case of an attack by a delivery boy for a mismatch of a single digit in the delivery address. The incident occurred on May 21 in Basaveshwar Nagar when delivery boy Vishnuvardhan went to Shashank's home to deliver goods.

A disagreement had broken out between Shashank's sister-in-law, who had gone to collect her order. Hearing the noise, Shashank stepped out and was then abused by the delivery guy. The customer suffered injuries near his eye and loss of vision. The customer filed a First Information Report (FIR). In a post on Instagram, the company stated, "Hey! We regret any inconvenience caused. Professional conduct is essential to us, and we will make sure this is addressed. Could you DM us your order details so we can look into it at Zepto speed?" **ANI**

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Malleswaram residents wade through civic neglect

BBMP's reckless digging, broken infrastructure, and ignored complaints have turned 8th Main into a disaster zone, leaving residents angry, helpless, and exposed to danger

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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Left: The quality of the concrete road
Right: Condition of Canara Union road

Residents of Malleswaram, especially those residing on 8th Main Road, have been suffering a lot due to the digging of the roads. They are not against developmental works but the apathy and negligence of the authorities.

The residents said that for two months now, they have had to precariously walk around a 10 feet high pile of debris. They complained that the BBMP has chosen to dig up the entire road – to the extent of preventing even ambulance access to these roads for months and the road is now partly motorable. "Cars have been stuck in mud (BBMP didn't factor in rains, clearly).

People had to get down, and walk to their safety, while the car was extricated out by a group of people heaving and pulling. Walking down this road reminded us of BBMP's foresight in creating war bunkers for us during the recent India Pakistan conflict. At least the 8th main residents could all go hide there", said Roopa Krishnamurthy, a resident.

She added that the digging has been going on for two months and the guy operating the earth moving machine indiscriminately dug out, broke and piled up the rain water percolators that BBMP had installed after the dry summer we had last year. Neighbouring apartments were suddenly without electricity, BESCOM cables were destroyed. The BESCOM officials were visiting this street almost every day for 10 days, to solve complaints. After repeated requests from the residents, the BBMP contractor helped cover up the 14th cross street with mud and stone, and this was promptly dug up again by the BESCOM technicians to attend to messes created beneath the road", she said.

She said that the galactically foolish act of cementing 14th cross street without regard for water logging, and presence of manhole coverings on the main road where the height difference between the manhole and the road is almost 12 inches. "How much tar is needed to level this? The footpath is barely 4 inches above the road now. All openings to the storm water drains are clogged, which is why our roads turn into rivers. Suryadarshan Apartment gate now has water logging every time it rains, now that the road is 6 inches higher than it was. I hope BBMP plans to give us all free malaria vaccines", she said.

> **"All the bookings of Canara Union were cancelled, children and parents are struggling to get in and out for badminton summer camps**
> – Meera Philar, Secretary, Canara Union

Vijaya Shenoy, a member of Malleswaram Social, said the civil work has been undertaken with no intimation given to residents living on these roads and thereabout. "Businesses which cater to the residents have been affected but the authorities do not care. This is the arterial road connecting 11th Main via 8th Main to Yeshwanthpur Circle. Pipes of various sizes are dumped on the roads with no timeline or information or indication as to purpose or completion. Trenches as deep as six to eight feet are left open day and night. No barricades, no precautions. Mud is piled high and left to scatter all over making the road slippery, many two wheelers have skidded over the last many days", said Shenoy.

Stating that the Canara Union has been having a borrowing time, Meera Philar, Secretary of Canara Union, said that all the bookings of Canara Union were cancelled, children and parents are struggling to get in and out for badminton summer camps. "No vehicles can ply. We have to precariously walk on the pavements with slabs cracked, fearing where we will drop into the drains. I am told it is going to be months before 8th Main can set right", said Philar.

Coconut prices skyrocket amidst production slump

With reduced rainfall, pest infestations, extreme heat, and shift to areca nut cultivation affecting yield, experts warn against possibility of further price surge

Coconut prices have reached record highs due to a 25-30% drop in production, attributed to erratic weather conditions. Over the past six to seven months, prices have doubled, with the cost rising from Rs 30-35 per kg to Rs 60-70 per kg. Experts cited reduced rainfall, pest infestations, and extreme heat as major factors affecting coconut yield. Additionally, farmers are opting to sell tender coconuts rather than mature ones, further exacerbating the shortage. The shift from coconut to areca nut cultivation has also contributed to the decline in supply.

Production crisis affects multiple states

The production crisis extends beyond Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, leading to a nationwide price surge. While the price hike benefits farmers, consumers are feeling the pinch. Approximately 50% of the country's coconuts are used for religious and culinary purposes, 30% for oil extraction, 10% for tender coconut water, 8% for dried copra, and 2% for industrial value addition.

Rising prices expected to continue

According to coconut cultivation experts, prices may rise further by May. Currently, small-sized coconuts cost Rs 20-30 each, medium-sized ones Rs 40, and larger ones Rs 50-60. The demand is particularly high in North India during winter, with increased use in sweets and hotel industries. Even as prices soar, coconut plantations in several districts are being ravaged by black-headed caterpillar infestations, leaving farmers worried. The pests attack coconut fronds, sucking out nutrients, and causing them to dry out, leading to reduced yield and weakened trees. Experts warned that the infestation worsens during summer. — BMB

Even as prices soar, coconut plantations in several districts are being ravaged by black-headed caterpillar infestations, leaving farmers worried

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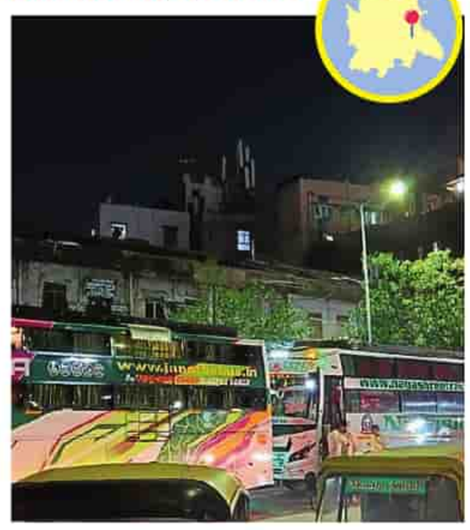
Inaccessible road

Thippasandra

For over one-and-a-half months, roads in New Thippasandra have been impassable. A car recently sank into the ground — a fate shared by several others. The condition is so dire, even ambulances can't reach the area.

Unauthorised parking

Dhanvantari Road



Unauthorised parking of private buses along Dhanvantari Road is severely affecting pedestrian movement and creating a traffic nightmare for commuters heading to KSRTC and BMTC terminals near Majestic.

Obstructed path

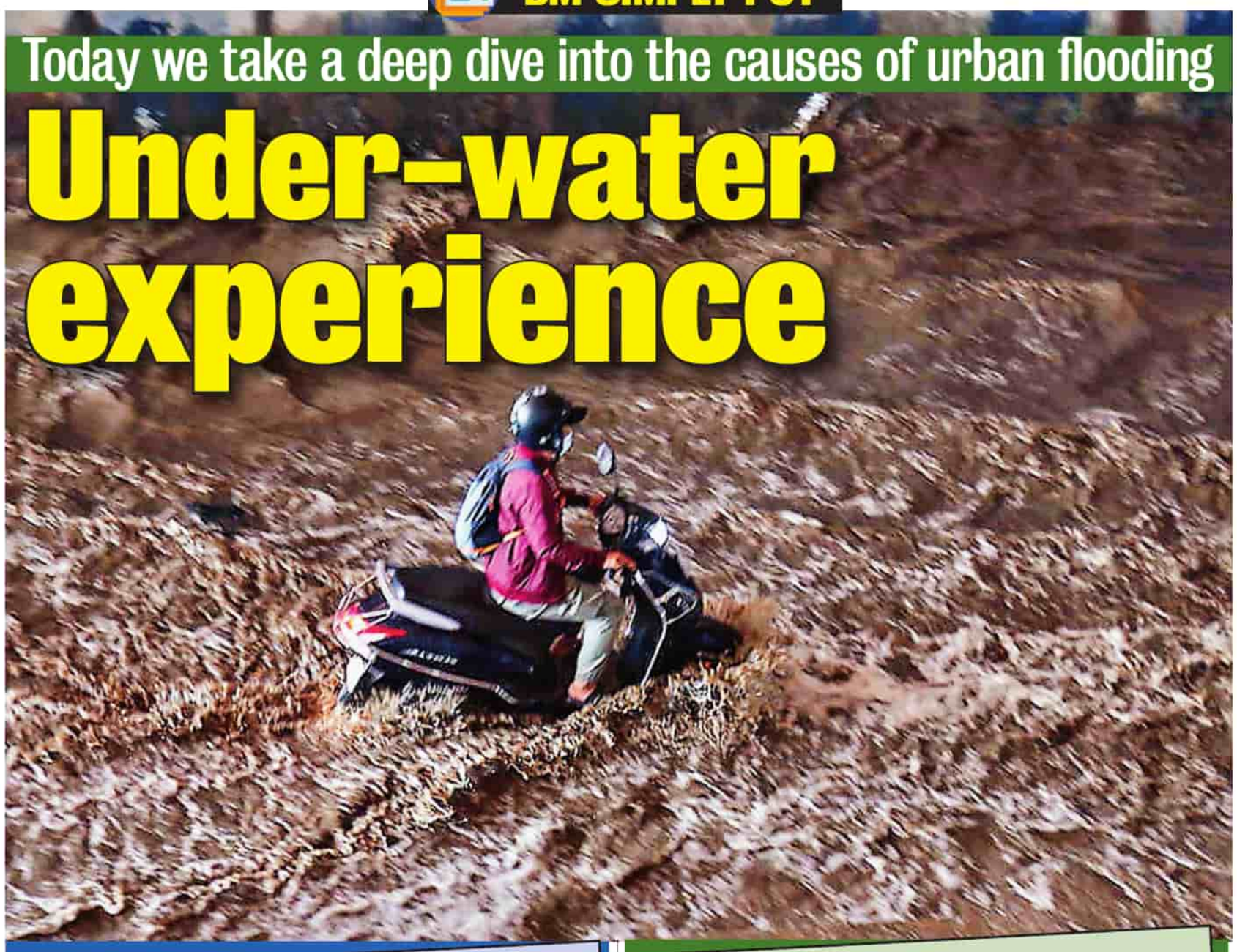
Hayes Road

At the intersection of Hayes and D'Souza Roads (Ward 111), a building under demolition has obstructed both footpaths with steel/aluminium frameworks, endangering pedestrian safety.

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we take a deep dive into the causes of urban flooding

Under-water experience



As soon as the rain clouds gather over Bengaluru, panic grips residents of low-lying areas. Streets turn into rivers, homes are inundated, and people are often forced to flee in the dead of night. But what's behind this recurring urban nightmare? Experts say it's not just a natural calamity—this is a man-made disaster in every sense.

Same Scenes, Different Years

Every year, heavy rains bring Bengaluru to its knees. Just before this year's monsoon, a single bout of intense pre-monsoon rain left half the city underwater. Prominent localities like Koramangala and SAI Layout were reduced to isolated islands. Streets turned into rivers and homes became water-logged traps, forcing families to seek shelter on terraces at night.

Despite repeated promises, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to curb this annual cycle of destruction. Development works worth crores are announced, but their impact remains questionable. Drain cleaning and infrastructure upgrades, which should happen in summer, are either delayed or neglected, leading to chaos once the rains arrive.

Why Does It Flood So Easily?

At the heart of the issue lies Bengaluru's vast but poorly maintained stormwater drain system. The city has about 860 km of natural stormwater drains (rajakaluves), but many of these have been encroached upon or altered beyond recognition. As a result, water cannot flow naturally and backs up into roads and homes. BBMP wakes up to the issue only after a disaster. Attempts to clear encroachments fizzle out due to pressure from powerful vested interests. Even when desilting contracts are awarded, there is no transparency about where the waste is dumped or whether the work is properly completed.

Where Will the Rainwater Go?

Bengaluru's rapid urbanisation has transformed it into a concrete jungle. With most surfaces paved with asphalt or concrete, there's no room for rainwater to seep into the ground. Parks and open land are disappearing. Lakes have either vanished or shrunk drastically. Naturally, rainwater has nowhere to go but down the gradient—into homes and streets in low-lying areas. Though the city receives nearly 900 mm of rainfall annually—enough to harvest 18 TMC of water—there is little effort to collect or conserve it. No large-scale rainwater harvesting or soak pit systems are being implemented, and drains are increasingly being concretised, which blocks natural absorption.

Lost Lakes, Lost Lifelines

Decades ago, Bengaluru was known as the "City of 1000 Lakes." Today, only 183 lakes remain under BBMP jurisdiction, most of which are silted or polluted. Alarmingly, 43 lake beds have been converted into residential layouts, bus stands, or playgrounds. High-rises have emerged where wetlands once supported paddy and millet crops. Natural drains that connected these lakes have disappeared or been blocked. With no space to absorb or redirect excess rain, flash floods are inevitable whenever heavy rains strike.

What Experts Say

"If we can conserve just 500 mm of the rainwater we receive, there would be no need for projects like Yettinahole or Mekedatu. Instead of protecting existing lakes and drains, we are busy paving over them."

The Human Cost of Neglect

This negligence is not without cost. Four lives were lost this year alone due to rain-related incidents. In the absence of long-term planning and flood mitigation strategies, the same localities flood year after year, with only temporary measures taken post-disaster.

BBMP's pattern of knee-jerk reaction and hibernation until the next downpour has become an unfortunate tradition.

A City Built on Water, Now Sinking in It

Bengaluru's floods are not an act of God. They are the direct result of poor planning, unchecked encroachments, disappearing lakes, and an obsession with concrete development. Until the city administration starts respecting the natural water systems it was once built on, rains will continue to bring misery instead of relief.

HIGH COURT

Rly Claims Tribunal told to be generous

The High Court has instructed the Railway Claims Tribunal to be generous whilst evaluating claim applications, emphasising that rejections should not be based solely on technical grounds. This directive was issued by Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar whilst returning a claim application submitted by relatives of a railway accident victim.

Family members of Basavaraj from Halkatta village, Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district, challenged the Railway Claims Tribunal Bengaluru's decision in the high court. They stated that Basavaraj had lost his life in a railway accident on July 8, 2016.

The incident occurred whilst he was travelling from Kalaburagi to Nalwar Railway Station. On March 21, 2018, the tribunal dismissed the application, citing a 472-day delay in submission.

Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar stated that delay alone should not warrant rejection. "The delay aspect can be considered in a positive and magnanimous way considering judicial notice of the status and living conditions of the applicants, who are wife, children and mother.

The deceased died in the railway accident therefore, the applicants have lost the breadwinner in the family. When this being the fact that a breadwinner died in the railway accident, the life of the applicants had become miserable and have faced mental agony, hardship, inconvenience and financial constraints even it may lead to a struggle for earning livelihood," the court said.

The court observed that applicants face difficulties approaching the tribunal when struggling for survival after such incidents. "When the wife and mother are residing in a village being rustic and semi-literate persons and do not have knowledge of worldly affairs, it is quite natural for some delay to occur under these circumstances.

— BMB

L&T's appeal against BMRCL rejected

The High Court rejected Larsen and Toubro Limited's (L&T) appeal against Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), affirming a lower court's decision to invalidate a Rs 28.74 crore arbitral award for project delay losses.

Justices V Kameswar Rao and S Rachaiah delivered the verdict.

"The Tribunal's award of Rs 28.74 crore, ignoring Clauses 2.2 and 8.3, is a jurisdictional error. An arbitrator, bound by the contract, cannot override its express terms, especially when L&T accepted extensions without reserving compensation rights, rendering the award contrary to public policy," they noted.

The dispute originated from a December 2009 agreement where L&T was contracted to construct three elevated Metro stations—Yeshwanthpur, Soap Factory, and Mahalaxmi—for Bengaluru's Metro network.

The 22-month construction project was regulated by General Conditions of Contract (GCC), which specified that BMRCL-caused delays would only result in extensions of time (EOTs), not financial compensation, according to Clauses 2.2 and 8.3. Land acquisition issues caused delays until May 2012, leading BMRCL to grant five EOTs without penalties but explicitly excluding compensation claims.

L&T initiated arbitration proceedings for claimed losses. The Arbitral Tribunal granted L&T Rs 28.74 crore in 2018, citing the Supreme Court's General Manager, Northern Railways v. Sarvesh Chopra (2002) decision, which indicated contractors could seek compensation if they informed the employer during EOT acceptance.

— BMB

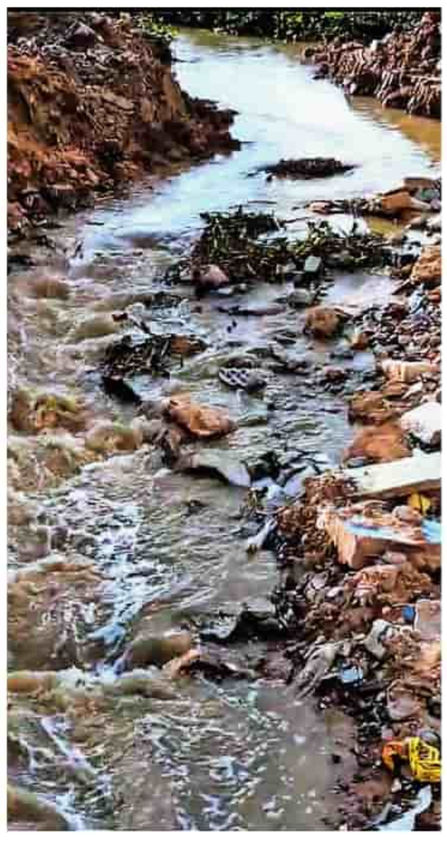
Dirty scenes at square one

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

environmentalists were very happy when Karnataka Kayaking and Canoeing Association had shifted training to Benniganahalli Lake as Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake where they used to train earlier was filled with weeds.

Demanding that the authorities make haste to take measures to protect the Benniganahalli Lake, Anupama VL, Treasurer of Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust, suggested the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) for treating sewage. "The pollution of the lake will affect students practising kayaking. It will not only make it difficult for the students to practise but will also become a health hazard. The BBMP and the BMRCL have spent huge amounts for the rejuvenation and development of the lake. The volunteers have also worked hard all these years for the development of this lake. Now, it is quite shocking to see the lake is polluted with dirty water," Anupama said.

Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said that many lakes were polluted as storm water drains carried sewage into those water bodies. "We have been making a lot of



efforts to preserve the lakes with the help of the BBMP Lakes Department but it has all been in vain. I came to know that the BBMP's SWD department is responsible for polluting Benniganahalli Lake. What is the use of spending lot of money for the development or rejuvenation of lakes if there is no coordination between the Lakes Department and the Storm Water Drains Department?" Raghotham said.

When informed, BBMP assistant engineer (SWD) Prashanth told BM that some buildings in Kasturinagar have no underground drainage connection and sewage is being let into the storm water

"BBMP's SWD department is responsible for polluting Benniganahalli Lake. What is the use of spending lot of money for the development

drain. "I have advised the BWSSB engineer to look into the matter. I have taken measures to prevent sewage from entering the Lake," he said.

However, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Nithya said no sewage had entered into Benniganahalli Lake. "It is rain water that entered the lake. No one has complained to me about sewage entering the lake," she said.

Vehicles will be identified in 4 days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

formed by a government committee, will include joint inspections by BBMP engineers and traffic police. Officers will begin by identifying such vehicles over four days. If the owner is not traceable or doesn't respond, the vehicle will be towed and shifted to designated yards in areas like Mallasandra and Jagsandra.

Depending on the condition and documents, the vehicles will either be scrapped or auctioned with court permission or, if it has a valid permit, it would be allowed to be resold.

Fake number plates

During a similar drive last year in the West Division, authorities towed nearly 700 vehicles, out of which over 400 were traced back to owners and penalised. A senior official revealed that many of the abandoned vehicles were either stolen, involved in criminal activities or accidents, and often carried dummy number plates. "In one case, when we called the number linked to a vehicle, the owner said their vehicle was right in front of them. That's when we realised fake registrations

KAUSHIK JN

were being used on stolen vehicles," the official said.

The ongoing drive also focuses on preventing public land misuse and eliminating safety risks, as some abandoned vehicles were previously linked to thefts, criminal offences, and even suspected of carrying explosives. BBMP corporators and local MLAs have been tasked with monitoring the list of abandoned vehicles in their wards to ensure better coordination. "Any vehicle left unattended on public roads for over 21 days will now be considered abandoned and dealt with accordingly," the officer confirmed. The drive will continue division-wise in the coming weeks.

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Suspension of 18 BJP MLAs revoked

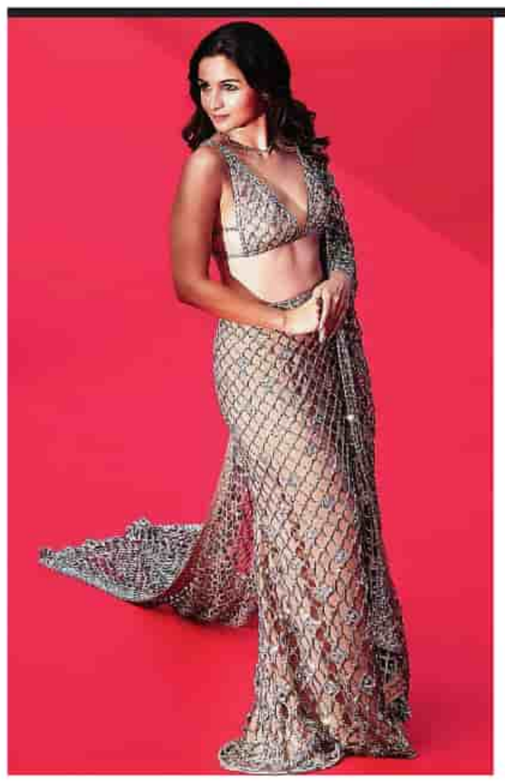
The Congress-led government in Karnataka on Sunday revoked the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs, following a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Speaker UT Khader.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil, and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, R Ashoka, according to an official release.

A consensus was reached in the meeting to revoke the suspension order. The decision was taken considering that two months had passed since the suspension, the suspended MLAs had expressed regret over their conduct, and had given an assurance that they would ensure better conduct in future Assembly sessions.

Commenting on the development, Ashoka said: "The Speaker had been in touch with us over the matter for the last 15 days. I had also met him several times, and the issue was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister." **IANS**

'Sorry for smoking' Britney Spears addressed the controversy surrounding her lighting a cigarette on a recent flight, in an Instagram post. The singer, 43, admitted to smoking on the plane but claimed that notifying authorities was "kinda much"



Saree is a vibe

Alia Bhatt continues to stun everyone with her breathtakingly beautiful looks at Cannes 2025. After striking in a Schiaparelli cream gown and sizzling in a shimmery one, the Bollywood diva makes a statement in the first-ever Gucci saree at the closing ceremony.

The unique saree was soaked in Swarovski crystals, and her minimal make-up well complemented her gorgeous ensemble. Alia made a breathtaking debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival on Friday. Decked up in a Schiaparelli cream gown, the 'Highway' actor stole everyone's attention with her look. She walked the iconic red carpet in an off-shoulder outfit made in ecru Chantilly lace, with organza and enamel flowers embroidered on the bodice.

The custom soft nude bodycon version, which was elevated with tulle ruffles at the hem, received a thumbs up from fashionistas. Alia was styled by Rhea Kapoor. She styled her hair in a neat bun with edges in a unique pattern. For the makeup, she kept it shiny and radiant. —**ANI**

COMPLEX ROLE

How Ali Fazal is getting ready for his next film

Ali Fazal, widely known for his roles in 'Fukrey' and 'Mirzapur,' is all set to explore a challenging new character, that of a kleptomaniac, in his upcoming film. The actor recently confirmed the project through an Instagram post, sharing that he has six months to prepare before shooting begins at the end of this year.

The project promises to showcase Fazal in a fresh, psychologically complex role. In a humorous Instagram story, Ali wrote, "I'm playing a Kleptomaniac in my next film, so I got six months to prepare. Now I will only be stealing s*it left right and center so I can get into character."

While prepping for his kleptomaniac role, Ali Fazal is also gearing up for the release of 'Metro… In Dino', an upcoming anthology film directed by Anurag Basu. Featuring an impressive ensemble cast including Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Anupam Kher, and Neena Gupta, the film is set to hit theatres on July 4. Just recently, the team unveiled the teaser for its first single, Zamaana Lage, described as a "modern ghazal for today's soul." Ali shared the teaser with fans, building anticipation for the film's music and release.

Meanwhile, 'Life in a… Metro' (2007), the first part, is an anthology of interconnected love stories set in Mumbai, capturing the complexities of urban relationships. —**ETimes**

Tripti's cheerleader

Tripti Dimri who rose to fame with her massive hit, 'Animal' is now in the news once again. She will soon play the lead opposite Prabhas in Spirit, the much awaited film directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga.

Amongst the praises that she's been receiving, there was one who stood out the most, it was her rumoured boyfriend, Sam Merchant's reaction.

Taking to his Instagram story, Sam reposted the announcement post, along with a clapping hands emoji.

Earlier, Deepika Padukone was set to star in the movie, alongside Prabhas, but she left due to undisclosed reasons.Meanwhile, Ram Gopal Verma has praised Sandeep Ready Vanga, for his decision to cast Tripti in the role. Taking to X (formerly Twitter) he wrote, "Hey @imvangasandeep Going by both her tremendous screen presence and performance which you showcased in ANIMAL , I think your decision will make her the NEXT BIG THING IN BOLLWOOD far beyond the current BIGGIES … CONGRAAATS @tripti_dimri23 High Time for your SPIRIT to FLY into the SKY."

On Saturday, Tripti took to her social media handle to announce that she has been cast in the lead role in the much awaited, Spirit. She uploaded the poster and wrote her name in various Indian and international languages. To express her gratitude Tripti wrote, "Still sinking in… So grateful to be trusted with this journey. Thank you @sandeepreddy.vanga… Honoured to be a part of your vision.

—**ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Releasing now

The team of Kannada movie Sanju Weds Geetha 2 is making arrangements to release the movie again after its release was postponed twice due to legal issues. An improvised version of Sanju Weds Geetha 2 is scheduled to arrive in theaters on June 6.

The team organised a meeting at Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce recently. Narasimhalu, president of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce extended support to them. "We have been extending support to those producers who have been facing problems to screen their movies," Narasimhalu said. Director Nagashekar said that there was a plan to have a 21-minute computer graphics but the movie was released without this scene, which is the soul of the movie.

"Now, we have added this scene. We arranged the screening of the latest version to director S Mahendar who appreciated it. We are planning to screen it for 22 directors, including director AP Arjun and S Narayan," the director said.

Children's special

Sees Kaddi, billed as a special children's movie screened at three international film festivals, has created a buzz among moviegoers. The movie is scheduled to arrive in theaters on June 6. Its trailer was unveiled at SRV Preview Theatre on Thursday. Five Kannada movie directors – Srini, Mahesh Gowda, Sagar Puranik, Ayush Malli, and Cheluvaraj -- graced the event.

Sees Kaddi is directed by Rathan Gangadhar.

"I came across the details of a pencil in a book. I have created five characters, based on the details of the pencil," said director Rathan Gangadhar.

The director said the movie has dialogues laced with the diction of five regions including Bengaluru, Tumakuru, and Mysuru. "The audiences will get a different experience because of these dialogues," he said. The movie is bankrolled under the Grahana LLP banner by Rathan Gangadhar, Sampath Shivashankar, Kruthi Nanaiah.

Director Srini said that capturing innocence of children during the shooting is a tough task. "The director of this movie has succeeded in capturing the innocence of children," said Srini.

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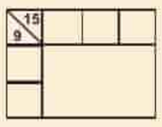
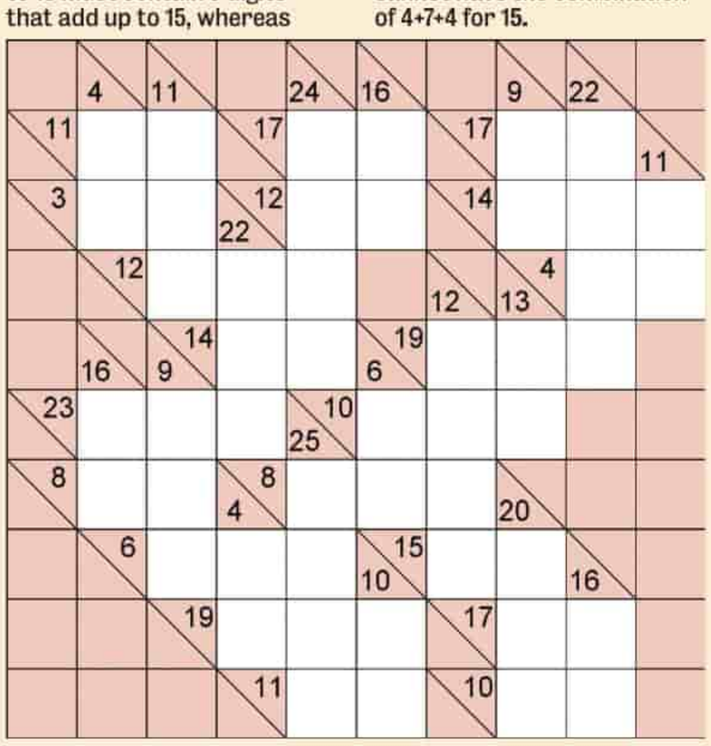
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

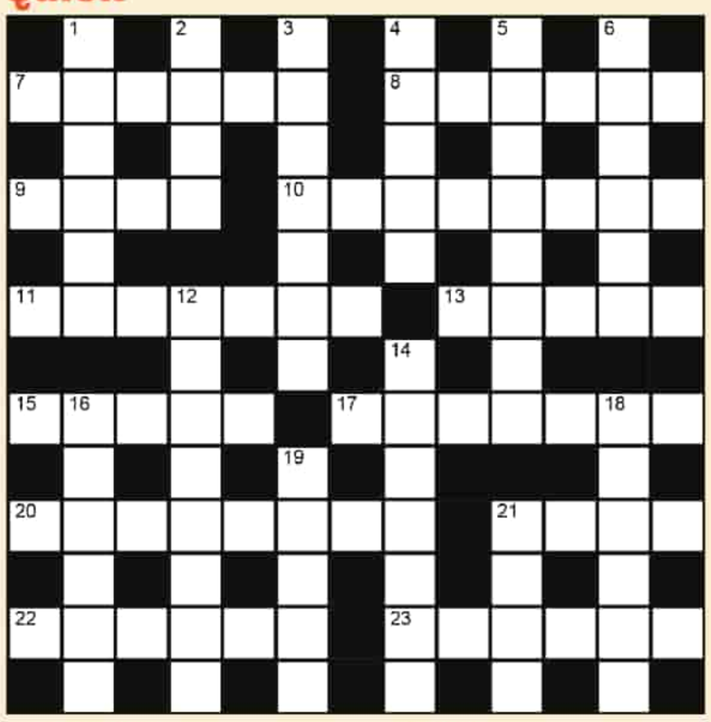
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Buffon for one, De Gea for another (6)
8 Colouring stick (6)
9 Ship's platform (4)
10 Veterans (3,5)
11 Agitates, angers or arouses (7)
13 Bundles of hay (5)
15 Popular action figure (2,3)
17 Lack of reverence; ungodliness (7)
20 One unlikely to win (8)
21 Shout (4)
22 Join together (6)
23 Lubricating (6)

DOWN

1 Awaken; reach (4,2)
2 Intense criticism (4)
3 Send traffic by another path (7)
4 Ascorbic and citric (5)
5 A-bombed Japanese city (8)
6 Caress or pet (6)
12 Self-centred (8)
14 American poet and essayist (7)
16 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
18 Natural ability (6)
19 More peculiar (5)
21 Christmas (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS G

FYBOB VP TQ PGKY FYVTL DP ZDVEGOB. FYBOB DOB QTEW OBPGEFP.

Linemaro

You stole my heart like the rebels stole the Death Star plans

Mindchow

The smallest annoyances disturb us the most

Joke of the day

All I've ever wanted was an honest week's pay for an honest day's work

Loop

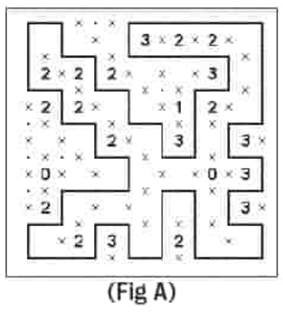
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

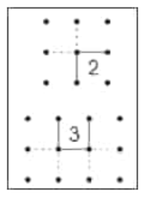
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

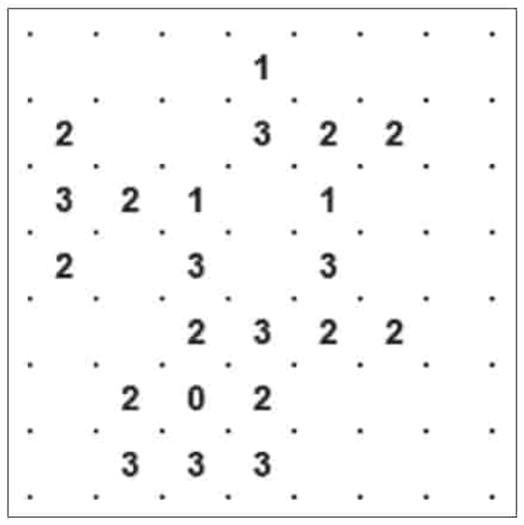
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



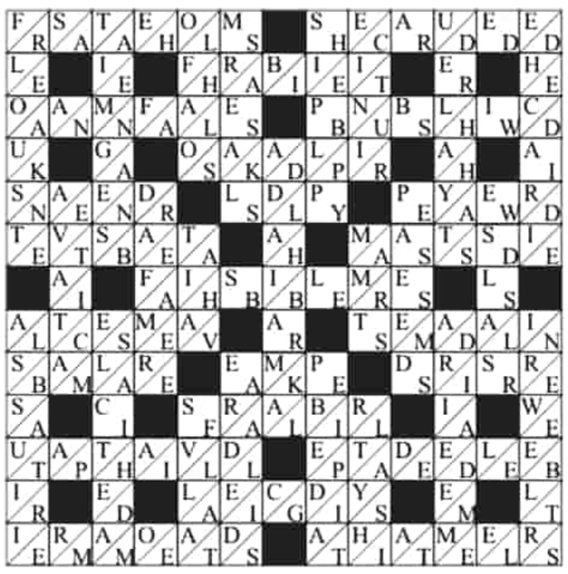
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



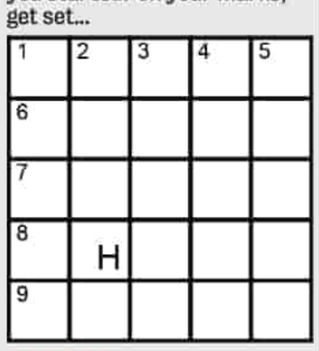
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

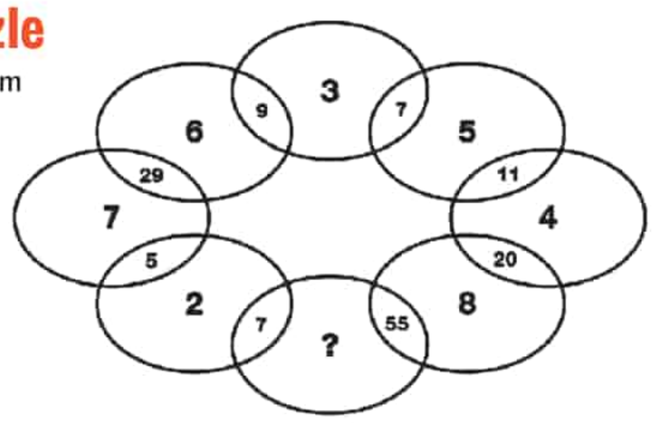
1 Pasts; 6 Or war;
7 At let; 8 Aahed;
9 Lu Let

DOWN

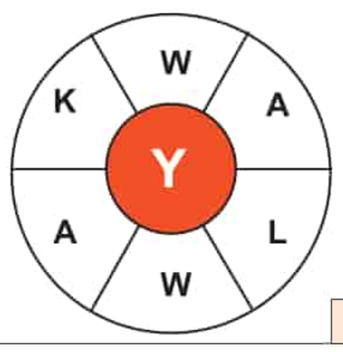
1 Atlas; 2 Rah up;
3 Later; 4 At lot;
5 Sewed

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from this puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9	2		7		6		4
						7		
	5			9	1			
	3		6				5	8
	6						4	
8	2				4		3	
			7	1			6	
		5						
4		3		6		5	2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19

2 7 7 7

Medium = 6

9 3 2 2

Hard = 15

3 6 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Purse is smaller. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Frame is smaller. 5. Lamp is different. 6. Neckline is different.

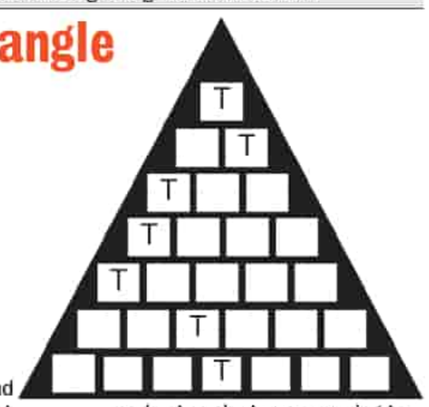
Riddler

Two definitions for two different words will be given. These words will differ only by their vowels. To change a word, both adding a vowel and changing a vowel is allowed, as long as the consonants are the same and in the same order. For example, bust to beast can be an answer.

1. A sticky product of trees to a type of dried fruit
2. A black bird to a chasm
3. Round object to a fee
4. Part of the body below the leg to a great achievement

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Pronoun
3 1-1
4 Stadium feature
5 Hackneyed
6 Healthier
7 Squander



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 2-17-25
I'm sorry I said my old name was too cutesy. May I have it back?
GUANO BOY
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features ©2025 Bizarro Studios

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MAYBE IF WE EAT THE SAME FORTUNE COOKIE AND WISH HARD ENOUGH, OUR BODIES WILL SWITCH BACK.
WE HAVE A FEW COOKIES LEFT OVER FROM A FEW WEEKS AGO!!
MUNCH
CRUNCH
OH, NO, THESE ARE SUPER STALE. HEY!! I'M BACK IN MY BODY! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED.
THE CARTOONIST IS PROBABLY LOOKING OUT FOR US.
THE END
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IS YOUR BACK BAD AGAIN, DAD?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I COULD SMELL THAT YOUR FRIEND 'BEN' WAS IN THE HOUSE AGAIN.
2-17
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

SOMEBODY CALL HEAVEN – AN ANGEL MUST BE MISSING!
TEE-HEE-STOP! NOW I KNOW WHY I ALWAYS COME BACK TO YOUR DELI.
HE'S GOT THE BEST BALONEY
mutts.com
2-17

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel energetic and productive. Your efforts at work are likely to yield positive results, boosting your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings may get resolved. You might also connect with an influential person, strengthening your network. Any recent misunderstandings with your partner are likely to be settled.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The moon's blessings bring happiness and diplomacy. You may handle people around you with politeness and grace. Difficult decisions in business could be taken today with support from family. Your communication skills may help secure a significant order, potentially enhancing business growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the moon, you're likely to feel inner strength and satisfaction at work. Romantic moments with your partner will improve domestic harmony. You may plan and implement a new project successfully. Job seekers are likely to find promising opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid engaging in unnecessary discussions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may bring some disappointments. You are advised to control your arrogance, especially in communication, to avoid conflicts or losses. Romantic relationships may be sensitive—avoid arguments over minor issues to prevent strain.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A peaceful day is likely. You may consider investing in the business, which could improve cash flow. Financial gains will boost your bank balance. Romantic moments with your spouse may strengthen your relationship. Singles might find a suitable match, and lovebirds may consider marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings happiness and financial recovery. Previous losses may turn into gains, and your work will likely be appreciated by superiors. Promotions or position changes are possible. You may effectively manage hidden enemies or competitors. Important relationship decisions, such as marriage, could be made with family support.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Positive lunar energy brings good health and a sense of peace. A visit to a religious place with loved ones may be on the cards. You might feel drawn to charitable acts or donations. Property deals may progress, and travel plans related to work or higher education could begin to take shape.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The moon's influence may bring some negativity. Stay away from controversies or gossip, as conspiracies may surface. However, your strong willpower and elders' blessings can help you overcome obstacles. Avoid arguments in domestic matters and steer clear of risky travel or adventures

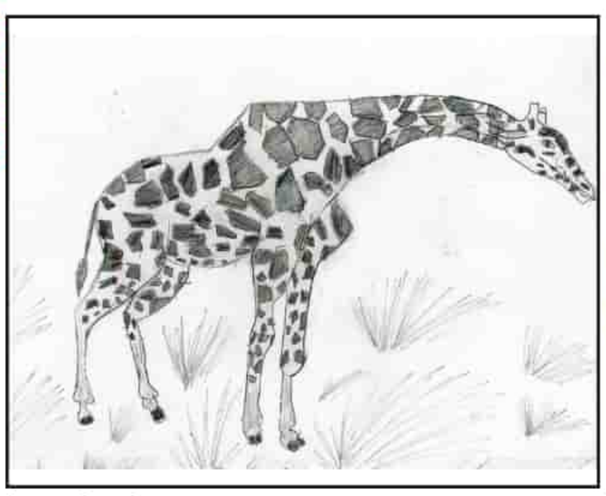
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You're likely to stay busy and energised at work today. Quick decision-making may help accelerate business projects. A new idea or innovation might be initiated, possibly in partnership. However, avoid investing in fixed assets under partnership agreements for now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
With the moon on your side, professional progress is expected. Promotions or favourable transfers may be on the horizon. A job change may also be considered. You'll enjoy strong relations with your seniors, and health issues from the past are likely to be resolved.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Things are coming under control today. You'll feel comfortable at work, with improved focus and productivity. Your wisdom will guide important professional decisions. Past investments may begin to generate profits.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today might feel emotionally heavy. You may experience dissatisfaction or low confidence, impacting both your personal and professional life. Arrogance could create friction, try to stay grounded. Lack of motivation may hold you back from creative tasks.

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru

Sonalika, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(125 + 25 + 5 + 1) / 4 = 156/4 = 39

BULL'S EYE
away, WALKWAY, yawl

STRIKE OUT

E	M	M	E	T	S		T	H	A	M	E	S		
R		E		A	E	G	I	S		E		L		
S	P	H	I	L		P	A	D	D	L	E			
S	A	A	R		A	M	P		D	I	R	E		
A	T	S	E	A		A		S	E	D	A	N		
I		F	I	B	B	E	R	S		S				
T	V	S	E	T		A		M	A	S	S	E		
N	E	E	D		S	L	Y		E	Y	E	D		
U		G		O	K	A	P	I		A		I		
A	N	N	A	L	S		P	U	B	L	I	C		
L		I		H	A	B	I	T		E		E	D	
F	A	T	H	O	M		H	E	A	D	E	D		

QUICK

		T		E		N		R		C		U		
S	P	L	I	C	E		O		I	L	I	N	G	
		P		T		D		S			U		E	
O	U	T	S	I	D	E		R			Y	E	L	L
		R		I		O		E					A	
G	I	J	O	E		I	M	P	I	E	T	T	Y	
		G			E			K						
F	O	M	E	N	T	S		B	A	L	E	S		
		T			U		S		S		L			
D	E	C	K		O	L	D	H	A	N	D	S		
M		A		I		R		G		N				
G	O	A	L		C	R	A	Y	O	N				
C		N		A		R		E		F				

MENSA PUZZLE
9. Multiply numbers in adjacent circles together, then subtract the original numbers, to give the value in the space in-between.

RIDDLER
1. Resin to raisin,
2. Raven to ravine,
3. Ball to billl &
4. Foot to feat

SUDOKU

3	9	2	5	7	8	6	1	4
1	4	8	2	3	6	7	9	5
7	5	6	4	9	1	3	8	2
9	3	4	6	2	7	1	5	8
5	6	1	9	8	3	2	4	7
8	2	7	1	5	4	9	3	6
2	8	9	7	1	5	4	6	3
6	1	5	3	4	2	8	7	9
4	7	3	8	6	9	5	2	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Tie, Tier, Title, Fitter, Flitter.

GO FIGURE
7 + 7 – 2 + 7 = 19
Easy
2 + 9 – 3 – 2 = 6
Medium
6 x 8 – 3 \ 3 = 15
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

QUOTE UNCODE
There is no such thing as failure. There are only results.

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	T	S
A	R	R	O	W
L	A	T	T	E
A	H	E	A	D
T	U	L	L	E

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RANK 70

Gautham Pocha
HT. No. 730011334

RANK 80

S Shreyas
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RANK 82

Shreyank Burge
HT. No. 757011329

RANK 86

K.I. Kishora Karthik
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NURSING

RANK 4

Vishwaradhya Ramanagoudar
HT. No. 808011078

RANK 5

Tejas Shailesh Ghotgalkar
HT. No. 777011305

RANK 7

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HT. No. 725011334

RANK 38

Piyush Panda
HT. No. 799011590

RANK 39

Nharen M
HT. No. 791011252

RANK 80

S Shreyas
HT. No. 744011547

RANK 90

Jewel Gupta
HT. No. 725011083

VETERINARY

RANK 4

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HT. No. 808011078

RANK 5

Tejas Shailesh Ghotgalkar
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RANK 7

Hem Hasith Nattava
HT. No. 867011291

RANK 56

Nitesh Dipali
HT. No. 795011215

RANK 62

Nithin P R
HT. No. 870011291

RANK 97

Agnika Sunil
HT. No. 847011301

AGBSc

RANK 24

Tejas Ghotgalkar
HT. No. 777011305

RANK 29

Satwik B Biradar
HT. No. 802011078

RANK 41

Hem Hasith Nattava
HT. No. 867011291

RANK 45

Vishwaradhya Ramanagoudar
HT. No. 808011078

RANK 66

Siddharth Sasikumar
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Exam Date 25th May 2025 | 11 am to 12:30 pm

NEET Long-Term 1st batch starts from 28th May 2025

Registration Link: https://srichaitanya.net/lp/neet2026/